COYOTE: Well, my thought-bombing comrade, that about wraps everything up. It is always refreshing to be able to converse with you. A lot of your answers were very deep and very thought-provoking. I admire your intellect and I am grateful for this opportunity to pick your brain, thanks! Before I close, please feel free to leave your readers with one last, refreshing thought!

Anthony: Thanks to you, my Coyote howlin' friend! I'm always happy to run across serious prisoner anarchists to collaborate with. I just ran across an address for you, out in Nevada! Write to: K. Friedman, Ste. 8, Box 241, 2375 E. Tropicana Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89119. She's a prisoner in Carson City, who wrote the *Free Self-Help Litigation Manual and Advice*. It's for lesbian &/or feminist prisoners. Maybe she knows some folks who can help you get an ABC going out your way!

As for a "final thought" Hmmm...Let me see! OK! Here you go! Here I am, a middle-aged, "white" dude, with a job, a wife, two kids, etc., etc. "I don't have time to do anything!" Do I? Besides, I've been conditioned by a lifetime of television and other lies, so what do I know, right? Wrong! Even an old geezer like me, with my little-assed "white skin privilege" knows this whole thing is a monumental charade, and even though I have next to nobody helping me, I still manage to have a strong anarchist-driven effect on many peoples' lives! What does that tell you! It tells me, *anyone* can be effective, especially those surrounded by young and oppressed people! So, if I can do it – Joe Normal in the middle of bum fuck – then so the hell can you or anybody else! Long live the anarchists who *live* as anarchists and *love* every minute of it!

NOTE:

Coyote is a politically conscious prisoner, who is currently confined to an isolation cell in a maximum security prison in Nevada. He is an activist and a writer, who has built a study group inside the confinement of Ely State Prison. Not only does he create beautiful literature of his own, but he makes copies of whatever literature he gets his hands on, through outside contacts, and then passes them around to fellow prisoners and holds discussions on them over the tier. Right now, Coyote is working against great odds to build a network for NV prisoners and has suffered from acts of retaliation from the administration for his efforts to organize and because of his activism. Nevertheless, he *still* does what needs to be done, putting his whole heart into it. You can contact him at:

Coyote Sheff #55671
P.O. Box 1989
Ely, Nevada 89301-1989

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

The Unleashed Thoughts of An Anarchist: Another Interview With Anthony Rayson

BY: COYOTE

COYOTE: Anthony, my comrade and fellow anarchist, you have been a good friend to me in my struggle and I was hoping to get the chance to interview you, and maybe pick your brain a little. I think this would be a great opportunity to raise a few questions in regards to ABC, and maybe for you to add some insight on the struggles of prisoners and of the struggles of people who work with prisoners.

First of all, let me start by asking you, in an obvious attempt to spread propaganda, the government likes to label anyone who opposes their authority as "communists" or "leftists." Can you tell me, in your opinion, what the difference between a communist and an anarchist is?

Anthony: Thanks, Brother for the kind words and I love and respect you, too! I appreciate the opportunity to engage in discussion with you. I'll give these questions some serious thought!

It's seems like these days, the government tries to label their critics and real enemies as "terrorists" or "anarchists" or more recently minted, "Islamic fascists." The Castro brothers are still "communists" and Hugo Chavez is a distained "leftist." When a society descends into barbarity, it's called "anarchy."

So, I guess I'd say there are two sets of definitions of these buzzwords, the ones the U.S. government uses and what they want us to believe they mean (what they want us to think) and what a serious student of political reality understands about these philosophies. One is a simpleton's version of the "Big Lie" parroted rather faithfully by a sycophantic press, meant to keep people ignorant and fearful and the other is a more complicated, but more honest look at these rival ideologies.

Governments always look to hide their own criminality by raising the spectre of "enemies" whether they are Vietcong "guerillas," or Chinese "Communists" or Sandinista "rebels" or Iraqi "insurgents." At home, we're supposed to be worried about "gang bangers" "anarchists" "eco-terrorists" "sleeper cells" and so forth. Their thing is herding the sheeple into fear pens and acquiescence towards the repressing of those who challenge authority. It's fascist repression-think. I think it was Aesop who said centuries ago, something like "Government violence is called 'law' and individual violence is called 'crime.'" It's the difference between the truth (anarchism) and lies.

As for the differences in, you mentioned "communists" "leftists" and "anarchists," I'll say this. There are actually several flavors of each! There are Maoist communists, Marxist-Leninists, Stalinists, Trotskyists, Castro Communists, other types in South and Central America, Africa and Asian communists and Europeanized Communist "parties." There is even a thing called anarcho-communism, which Alexander Berkman considered himself to be, among many others.

Communists believe in the overthrowing of the capitalist system to be replaced by "socialism" and eventually, "communism." After a successful revolution, a vanguard party, with a central committee and politburo decides the course of how the revolution should go, by way of "democratic centralism." They talk of worker control ("soviets") but the decisions will be made by the Communist heavies. In other words, they advocate dictatorship – in the name of the workers!

That's why communist countries have been so brutal and repressive. There is no freedom. It is an imposed "liberation." The people have no say-so and if they try to have any, the KGB or the CHEKA or the Thought Police comes to get you and throws you into a gulag. Isn't that what they already do in the U.S.? So what good is a revolution, if you're just going to replace one dictatorship with another?

There are other Marxists – Marxist-Humanists, various kinds of "socialists" and so forth. Karl Marx is the father of "scientific" socialism, just as Mikhail Bakunin, his contemporary, was the father of anarchism. Bakunin warned the world about the dangers of Karl Marx's "dictatorship of the proletariat" and this horrible scenario was played out in excruciating agony under Stalin and under other gruesome "communist" regimes.

Many millions of valiant people fell under the banner of communism fighting against capitalism, (imperialism, fascism, Nazism, "democracy") but the gains they won were inevitably betrayed by their communist "leaders" who ran the communist parties which grabbed power, once the capitalists were routed.

Unlike the anarchist concept of genuine autonomy, worker's control of the work place, voluntary association, consensus decision-making and so forth, all decisions, economic, political, even social, were top down decisions handed down by a "communist party" and forced upon the people, albeit accompanied by anti-capitalist and "revolutionary" rhetoric.

The economy of a communist country can more accurately be described as "state capitalism." Instead of corporations manipulating the economy and politics of a country, a group of central committee appointed and directed "planners" orchestrate the economy, without any real input from regular working people.

Anarchists want to abolish prisons, slavery, predation, coercion and all hideous institutions that infringe upon liberty and freedom and

know! As slaves yearning for liberation, they are the best group of people for us to work with, because we are striving for anti-slave revolt, too! These folks – the ones who've stopped banging and haven't been driven crazy yet, are thirsting for radical, revolutionary and yes, anarchist insight and empowerment!

Unlike the oblivious, floating ghosts on the "outs" who are indifferent or repulsed by seriously revolutionary zines, prisoners love them! Prisoners start study circles and pass them around. They suffer assault, abuse, all kinds of indignities, just for *receiving* them! So, of course, I'm going to work closely with prisoners who know what the hell is going on! I'd be a fraud not to!

As for ABC and those who do ABC-type work, I love them! Its hard work, but very rewarding and the few who know this and stick with it have my everlasting respect and gratitude. If ever a group of anarchists deserved respect, it is these people! Without a serious ABC presence, "anarchists" wouldn't have much going for them, as far as normal people are concerned. All too often, anarchists are involved in esoteric, self-centered stuff that has little or no solidarity component to it, let alone relates to what regular working &/or poor people have to deal with. Anarchy is not some goofy-looking clothes and a slovenly attitude! It's serious salt of the earth work! So, yeah, I'm proud to be a part of ABC and I don't let the naysayers bother me too much. Show me something more impressive than the work we are doing! If you can, I'll add it to my distro!

As for the future of ABC, I am trying to help it grow. We do constant outreach, inside and out. We make it simple as hell! All you have to do to access this information is contact us! It costs *nothing!!* We are being infiltrated and otherwise menaced by the police, FBI, etc. so that tells me we are having effect. We tie up a lot of prison censor trolls and cost gulags money, which they hate. We get the truth out of the gulags and in turn, get it back in. This is exactly what George Jackson beseeched outside supporters to do – flood the prisons with insurrectionary ideas!

So, the ABC Network has done a lot of really important work. I'll continue to do this, at this break neck speed, for as long as I live! So, at least as far as I'm concerned, I will be thriving and soaring into the hearts and minds of prisoners for many years to come. Hopefully, our long term goals will be actualized and we'll participate in the destruction of the final hideous prison and we can all celebrate with the brothers and sisters who have been in chains for so long. For freedom, not slavery!

WE MUST *FIGHT* FOR OUR CHILDRENS' FUTURE!

for prosecution as crimes. Landlords aren't charged for their crimes, not are factory owners who rip off workers. So, the whole "criminal justice system" only goes after individual petty crime – in the poor communities, mostly. All the real crime just keeps happening, and even the individual crime rates never go down, because the society is busy "criminalizing" these young, mostly black people.

It's a crime not to have food, clothing, shelter, medical care or a real education, job prospects and so forth, but once again, these aren't considered crimes, just what the desperate do because of them. What a horrible reality it is!

If people think "anarchists" are the problem, maybe they should google anarchism on the computer, sit down and learn what the hell an anarchist really believes instead of believing the liars in the mainstream media, some rightwing pundit or some government mouthpiece, who they should know is lying, because they lie about everything else!? Once again, get off the couch and learn for yourself! I have several zines that spell it out that you can get, if writing a quick note is not too much of a burden. Excuse my exasperation, but I have had to put up with this oblivious, stuptified country of zombies day in, day out and I get sick of it! Being a serious anarchist is a very important thing to be, but we are treated like lepers – even by the people who would most benefit from our work!

COYOTE: ABC has been in existence for 105 years. WOW! Is there anything you would like to say in honor of ABC? And, is there anything that you'd like to say for the future of ABC?

Anthony: Well, ABC came to be out of the Revolution of 1905, in Russia. It was formed to support anarchist prisoners being repressed by the Tsar. Different groups from around the world popped up here and there to support anarchist prisoners and other political prisoners. There's a group called ABCF (Anarchist Black Cross Federation.) They've been around for 10-12 years and their main focus is in supporting "official" political prisoners in America. They also support "social" prisoners, although the PP's & POW's (prisoners of war) get the monetary support from them. This is a very good group and they do important work. There are various ABC groups in Europe and South America, Canada, etc.

The Network came into existence in 2002. We wanted to generalize the support for prisoners. We believe *all* prisoners are political prisoners, as incarceration is a driving force of this repressive regime. It's *very* political! Prison defines America! Like Malcolm X said: "America means prison!" It's "ground zero" of the struggle here at home. Prisoners are slaves according to the 13th Amendment. They know they are slaves! They're shackled, gassed, beat, encaged, forced to work for nothing – they

communists build secret police, gulag archipelagos, "re-education" indoctrination camps, and other creepy repressive, not free, lie-based forces of oppression.

Anarchists also have a "class analysis" and realize what a capitalist economy is all about, like a learned "Marxist." We don't believe in "dictatorship" at all or any other kind of suppression. These are fundamental differences. But they are anti-capitalist revolutionaries!

Saying all that, there are many Marxists and communists who I feel comfortable working with and many anarchists who I feel do little or nothing to push the common struggle forward. I believe in the anarchist tenet of solidarity very strongly and work with those who are also seriously into fighting this beast, here in the belly. It seems even with their beliefs (vanguardism) communists often deal in real issues and struggles that people are concerned about, while anarchists are busy worrying about some esoteric bullshit or being self-centered hedonists, unaccountable for their actions. Maybe I'm just kinda pissed right now!

I respect communists for their level of effort and the seriousness they bring to their work, whereas I can't say the same for anarchists. I'm quite disappointed in anarchists, generally, although there are some who I greatly admire. I believe that people want to live unfettered by any kind of oppressor or lie-based belief system. They want the truth and to be left to live their lives as they see fit – as long as they don't hurt somebody and in turn, aren't being hurt by somebody else.

So, I see the logic and principles of anarchism, because they are based on freedom above all else, will win the hearts and minds of people, when nip comes to tuck, but anarchists got to get off their asses and jack up their intensity many, many notches before this will become a reality. In Spain, they lived and struggled (and were killed!) for many decades leading up to the Spanish Revolution of 1936. Anarchists need to give a *total* effort!

As for "leftists" it can mean corporatist democrats to serious revolutionaries. It depends on the context and the political landscape of the region involved. In Amerika, a "leftist" is but a mild reform-minded critic of endless government genocide, but in say, Bolivia, a "leftist" may be involved in street battles with government forces, or she may be a tin miner hurling dynamite! In Amerika, a "leftist" may participate in a "die-in" and get "arrested" (arranged for before this timid "demonstration.") In Sri Lanka, this "leftist" may be carrying a rifle, defending part of an autonomous zone. Their religious beliefs vary wildly, as well!

As for Alexander Berkman, he called himself an anarcho-communist. The Haymarket anarchists called themselves "socialists" too. This is because the goal of communism is the "withering away of the state" and an equal sharing of goods "to each according to his needs." Anarchists believe resources and goods should be shared equitably and there should

be no state, an inherently oppressive and criminal monstrosity.

I believe folks can become "conscious" through various revolutionary avenues and that's to be respected, as long as they aren't racist, sexist, homophobic, and so on. We all need to work closely together to defeat this horrible system of oppression. But, "after the revolution" these tendencies come to the fore and "revolutionary dogma" becomes policy of a new government – and if it isn't an anarchist situation, anarchists and other revolutionaries will be repressed. So, that's my concern with communists. After victory, their track record on freedom is bad. They treat the people and other revolutionaries like their enemy. Anarchists only go after oppressors, not normal people and other revolutionaries. That's the main difference, in my opinion.

Something Assata Shakur wrote comes to mind. She said: "If you're deaf, dumb and blind to what's happening in the world, you're under no obligation to do anything. But if you know what's happening and you don't do anything but sit on your ass, then you're nothing but a punk." All too often, so-called "anarchists" are nothing but punks!

COYOTE: It seems that the government can easily come together and oppress us, attack us and divide us on all levels and fronts. But when it comes to us coming together on all levels to defend ourselves and to organize, there seems to be a lack of real unity. Can you offer some ideas on how to establish a real sense of unity amongst anarchists?

Anthony: Well, this slave-based government has been in the saddle for several centuries now. They've had hundreds of billions of dollars of extorted tax monies to spend, control the media and all schooling of our children and have this conditioning of our minds down to a sort of sick science. Remember after World War II, one of the first things they did was gather up all the top German Nazis and put them to work for the U.S. government. They didn't care about all the horrible murdering and gruesome experiments they did. They had propaganda skills and brainwashing skills and crowd control skills and organizational skills on how to develop high-tech policing. This was known as "Operation Paperclip." The most vile idea readily and routinely put into practice!

Anarchists, have no source of funding, have been demonized and criminalized, and our literature is very hard to find for those who may be interested in learning the truth. People have been beat down and cookie cut into an order following mode of behavior since early childhood. Most folks never develop a questioning mindset, or a self-driven form of education. Each person first has to totally deconstruct their entire lives to start fresh and build a genuine ability to think freely and understand the reality that's been so hidden for so long. These are very powerful

copies, collate them, fold them and staple them. Then you file them and maybe mail them out to certain people, sometimes lots of people. I have several huge bookcases, shelves, boxes full of zines. I save the masters for reprinting later. When people ask for it by name or by subject, you try to send it to them – whatever they want, as best you can. Sometimes, people send stamps or a little cash. It is a drag when prisoners send checks addressed to my distro. I can't cash them, folks! Please send all checks made out to me, Anthony Rayson, send cash or stamps. Thank you!

It takes constant, daily work because you are constantly running out of titles, working up new ones and so forth. So, you have many zines in various stages of production, from the raw, hand-written beginnings to the finished products. But, it doesn't require anything special, can be (and is by me) done anywhere, with a minimal amount of "stuff" you need to do them with. Like everything else, the biggest obstacle and hassle of doing them is getting off your ass and setting to work. Pretty simple! I'd gladly give workshops on zinemaking or anything else, but people "don't know and don't want to know." It's maddening! It really is.

COYOTE: What are some of the most common myths you hear about anarchists and would you like to say anything to set the record straight?

Anthony: Well, "anarchists" are supposed to be violent, thieving, crazy, dangerous, anti-social, terrorists, hedonists, who want to unleash criminals upon everybody, who despise "organization" blah, blah, yada, yada, yada.

While there are some real losers who call themselves "anarchists" real genuine anarchists (of which there are precious few) are rarely any of those repulsive things! Anarchists are legitimate and responsible, care about other people, don't take things that aren't theirs, are quite social, and do not want criminals menacing society. That's why they hate government so much!

Criminals run government and do bad things to people like kill and encage them! They steal from people and lie and cheat and force a horrible "education" upon them, and cater to a hideous corporate-dominated "culture" of conspicuous consumption, the glorying of official violence, and everything sickening. So, yeah! Stop the criminals!

Anarchists believe incarceration is a crime. People often have been ruined who are then incarcerated (and made worse.) We don't want predators menacing our communities. We don't want pedophiles, politicians, thieves, policemen, murderers, judges, extortionists, lawyers or any other type of criminal to menace us. Problem is, most crimes (state crime, crimes of the police, the courts, etc.,) are not even considered

I think it's important to get other peoples' viewpoints, uncensored or edited by me, so readers can make their own determinations on the issues and beliefs presented, compare ideas, synthesize them, add them to their own, discard and ridicule or whatever. I have confidence that my work stands up and has its due influence. People tell me all the time it means a lot to them. Others tell me I suck! Whatever, I'm gonna keep doing it and I'm gonna jack up the level of argumentation more and more, the importance of the issues, the strength of the writing – everything! It's not a game or a novelty with me – it's part of a social upheaval. To me, this zine, and the many others I work on, are part of a vital aspect of this cultural revolution we so desperately need to develop from.

Do I care that my work is so ignored and pilloried? Not really, because those sycophants and timid ones aren't gonna get down and dirty, anyway! They *avoid* the issues! So, I'll go with people who aren't afraid of the brutal truth and who "get it" you know? I feel very comfortable with conscious prisoners and hopefully, they feel comfortable with me. Thus, I have many, many useful and excellent collaborators to work with. I have more than I can handle, so I'm never moping around with nothing to do, like so many. I'm busy as hell every day and busier the next day! That's good because my old man was a workaholic and so the hell am I (smile*)

How do I do it? Simple. I have simple tools, like a box cutter knife, an aluminum yardstick filed in half, glue sticks, pens, paper, stamps, whiteout and a tape player. I spread all kinds of papers, envelopes, letters, zines, etc. on a ping pong table. I've developed a painstakingly created "network" whereas folks (mostly prisoners) can find out about me and my work, through ads in other publications, articles I've written, the thousands upon thousands of zines I've sent out, listings in resource guides, others support groups' newsletters, ads in zine review zines, other zines, word of mouth, tons of hand-written letters, etc. I told you this work isn't easy – but it is relatively "simple!"

I don't have a website or use the computer much, except to check email and transcribe or write. I find a lot of people are "computer activists" only and don't call, visit or write. That's lazy! Prisoners don't have access to the internet, another way the government tries to keep them (their slaves) ignorant, uneducated and thus, impotent as revolutionaries. Something Assata Shakur said comes to mind, here. She wrote: "to become free, you have to be acutely aware of being a slave."

I like to make digest-sized booklets, usually from regular 8 ½ x 11 paper, which is the quickest and easiest to make copies from. Sometimes, it works better to use 8 ½ x 14 paper. You give yourself enough margin and cut and paste that bad dog together. You make an original, then a master, go over it with a fine tooth comb (and a bottle of white out) and voila! You have a master copy ready for reprinting! Then you make

obstacles to confront and overcome. Fear plays a tremendous role, as the truth is "scary" and a person feels thrown out into a vast void of wilderness, once outside mainstream-think. The connections to serious truth are tenuous and subject to constant disruption by the authorities.

All the "legal" avenues for revenue are tied up in the capitalist system. To attain money, you must sell your labor to a capitalist. Housing, medical care, food – none of these are provided for our people, even though a nation with 4.5% of the world's people usurps 30% of the world's natural resources. It's a struggle to survive in this country and if you try to fashion a life – a mate, children, etc. it pretty much takes all of your time and effort, just to make ends meet.

Meanwhile, the government is ever vigilant looking for more bodies to cram into their enormous (and growing!) gulag system. A million laws insures that every single person is constantly breaking the law all day long, every day. So, the chance of getting arrested is ever present. If they want you, they can conjure up charges and have no fear of any reprisals coming their way because of it. I read an article a couple of days ago that documented that 99.8% of *bad* cops never have any kind of discipline because of their predatory and criminal behavior. They are immune from the laws they so zealously chase down others about.

How does this translate in "anarchists" being such dip shits and not working on the same page? Well, we're people too, who have been destroyed by this system, like everybody else. Even so-called "white people" have had to live a really messed up, regulated and stultified life, amidst racists and cops and horrible "education." They've been taught to not have it together in zillions of ways!

This self-hating behavior and this inability to build genuine community amongst people facing the same problems is a deliberate policy of government. It's the old "divide & conquer" being used on a subliminal, highly advanced manner. Young people are zombified by violent video games. Teens are plugged into bad-ass gangsta hip-hop. Many are strung out on various drugs – crack, television, sports, money, sex, bling, whatever! *Anything* to forget about dealing what is staring us all in the face! It drives me wild how catatonic everybody is. It's like the set to a Rod Serling *Twilight Zone* episode!

"Anarchists" are mostly similar victims, who have stumbled across some anarchist literature and maybe anarcho-punk culture. They're still carrying around a lifetime full of bad upbringing. They have a long-assed way to go to purge all this garbage within and develop a serious anarchist consciousness and purposefulness that will facilitate them being able to work closely (and effectively) with other serious-minded people. They're human like everybody else. It's a very difficult, complicated series of hurdles to overcome. Prisoners are the same way. They may develop a "consciousness" and be rarin' to go, once released into "minimal security"

(the outs.) But, once out there, the struggles of the real world, finding a job, a place to live, food to eat, a person to love, people to relate to, become almost impossible. Becoming a serious activist / organizer on top of all this, is like climbing Mount Everest naked! Not easy. 6

There's so much noise, it's hard to hear the truth and listen to the few who are doing the serious educational work required to attain these various levels of development. I like to think I have a lot of useful information to give. But it seems people are afraid or too lazy or whatever, and don't want to listen to me. It's like an affront to their personhood to take advice from someone who's "been there and done that." It goes back to the self-destructive conditioning that has been wired into our brains from early childhood, to prevent us from realizing our genuine potential. It takes effort to get off the dime, overcome inertia and wake the fuck up!

Anyways, to get back to your question, anarchists need to call each other on the telephone, write letters to each other, go to each other's house or apartment, meetings, arrange for meetings, develop projects and work diligently on them before during and after them, do serious outreach constantly wherever they go, talk to everybody they meet and so on. It's an every waking moment effort that people must figure out how they can best perform. People must become their real selves, in spite of this profane and insane, spiritually polluted social environment we're stuck in. It's in there, somewhere and people can access it, practice it, develop it and become their real effective anarchist selves. It's vitally necessary for everyone who wants to live a real life and I'm telling you, it's *possible!*

COYOTE: As an anarchist, you are very intelligent and seem to have a true sense of the issues that prisoners are faced with. Tell me, where did you get your education from, as an anarchist?

Anthony: Again, I appreciate your kind words, but don't get gushy, now! (smile*) There's lots of good insight out there – most all of it, in my not so humble opinion, is flooding out of the gulags! I'm deluged with it, myself and I know many other people that are receiving brilliant political analysis, incredible artwork, poetry, collage work, etc., etc. that in fact, is becoming the basis for a whole new concentrated "culture of resistance!" I truly believe that the level of awareness and connectedness to people, who are groovin' on their IPods is gonna have to be actualized. Maybe it's in Podcasting. Maybe it's in these dynamite zines I churn out, will take fire, and people will get off their asses and reprint them copiously and spread them around to everybody with urgency.

Some of the best anarchist thinkers today are anarchist prisoners. I'll single out people like Harold Thompson, Jerome White-Bey, James Scott, Ali Khalid Abdullah, Ojore Lutalo. There are many, many, many others. do a thing – just like on 9-11! But they do have a seriously dangerous police and military. Our chances go way up, when the police and army men no longer are willing to follow their orders to continue to kill and repress people. 27

Something big may happen, soon. Perhaps we'll see another major hurricane, an earthquake, world war, a serious economic depression, martial law – something "big!" We shall see.

In the meantime, people need to know what the deal is to begin to effectively deal with it. So, I see an extremely important task is one of concentrated, focused education. People should do what I do – work hard! Why can't others be doing this work? It's technically pretty simple! There are copying machines practically everywhere! People must stop being lazy and fearful – simple as that! Once they cross the "fear line" and shake off inertia, they can become very active and valuable. Their real life will truly begin. For, like Assata Shakur says, life is most exciting *during* the struggling!

All forms of media can be used to get the message out. People will have to experiment and try all kinds of tactics – new and old – and see what works. But to really try something "new" what they should try is to actually t-r-y! That would be new! I'd love to see it and I'll be glad to mentor anybody into it! I'm tired of seeing people get enthused and then flake off. Show some self-respect and respect for others! This isn't a goddam game – its life and death! It's not just some goddam joke!

COYOTE: It seems like any fool with a typewriter can create a zine, but your zine, *"Thought Bombs"* is one of a kind. Not only is there a lot of intelligence and truth put into them, but you give people off all different nationalities, creeds and beliefs an opportunity to let their voice be heard! It's good to see people working along the same lines, towards the same objectives. That's something that ABC does well. Can you explain *how* you put your zines together and then what you do with them, once you're finished?

Anthony: Thank you! It's nice of you to notice. Usually my zine gets crappy reviews because the mainstream underground is only interested in the "navel-gazing" zines. From the very beginning, with *Thought Bombs #1*, I explained what I was going to do – look for the best revolutionary literature out there to help push the struggle forward. I organize a lot of events – talks, actions, conferences and so forth. I like to prepare a statement for these to concentrate my arguments and have a written record of these issues and events for later publication. I write essays about all sorts of things, in the back of my mind, I'll use in a pub – either my own or a different one I'll work up.

activities. So, when we publicize the endless abuse they inflict, it usually helps curb some of the more egregious abuse. But, the insane system of forcing people to live in cages continues on, as if it was natural and legitimate. The running of prisons is a major social crime on humanity that pours gas on the problems.

26

On the other hand, anarchist ideas (and other revolutionary positions) are gaining a much wider acceptance, as people realize the government does nothing but lie and make their lives miserable and threatened. So, we have a big opportunity to help get recruits. It's a race against time, as these monsters don't even care if their own children have a viable planet to subsist on in the near future!

Have there been any victories? Well, a few prisons were shut down, including a women's prison twenty miles south of me that I helped organize against. But, did fewer people stay in prison because of it? No. More and more keep coming in. Occasionally, a prisoner we supported gets paroled and gets a foothold and begins to put his or her prison education (political consciousness) to work and becomes a community organizer. It's a tough, difficult struggle. For, there's no "community" to come back to! Every one is on their own facing a stacked deck – no job, stigmatized, no education, no place to live, etc. So, having a serious understanding of reality is pretty much mandatory, if one is to avoid the recidivist kidnappers. This is the preparation we try to give.

COYOTE: We are six years into the new millennium. It seems like there is crisis and turmoil in every part of the world right now. But for some reason, people feel a sense of something "new" just around the corner. Change is in the air. As a prison abolitionist, what new approaches do you think activists should take in the struggle to abolish prisons?

Anthony: There's tremendous "turmoil" and many crises. After all, the U.S. has declared nuclear war on Afghanistan and Iraq and threatens to do the same to North Korea, Iran, and elsewhere. Many people are fighting and dying every day in many countries. The U.S. is everywhere making the situation much worse!

Seeing this (and experiencing their own oppression at the hands of the U.S. and their puppets) places like Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brazil and elsewhere in South America, have experienced a tremendous growth of "people power" community organizations, worker-run factories, serious organizing and empowerment is being accomplished. So, people back in the belly can see it is possible! *Millions* of people demonstrated even in this locked-down country for the rights of immigrants. Every one knows the Iraq war was bullshit and hates Bush (outside the hardcore American fascists) but feels powerless and atomized to do anything seriously about it. They saw Katrina wipe out New Orleans and the government didn't

There are also other brilliant revolutionaries who don't consider themselves anarchists. These include, Muslims, New Afrikans, Communists, Indigenists, all kinds of folks. Although, as an anarchist, I don't agree with some of the things they believe in, I'll still edit and publish their work because I decided that they do have useful and valuable insight, none-the-less. I don't just print anything so prisoners tend to send their best efforts for my consideration. I make my project very clear. I'm looking for the strongest in revolutionary thinking that connects with the most people. The material is strong, but the solidarity shown to help spread this insight is still weak.

This is the basic anarchist principle of solidarity. It gets important information out, gives honest credit for whoever is talking, demonstrates the seriousness and effectiveness of anarchist solidarity work and helps educate people. People can compare this particular line of thinking with, say, my opinion of anarchist type thinking and make a judgment for themselves on who's opinions more closely jibes with their own. I have every confidence that an anarchist mindset will stand strongly against these sorts of rival philosophies and in fact, we can learn from the best of each philosophy and blend it into our own belief system. I've accepted the arguments of non-anarchists on certain avenues of thinking and taken them on as my own. It's developing my own thinking!

Prisoners have been my main educator, in all truthfulness! Over the last ten years, I've been fortunate to develop serious working relationships with many important prisoner thinkers. Even the every day prisoner letter is a reality check on real life conditions. It cuts through the cacophony and insights are developed and shared. That's why the authorities keep trying to squelch our work and menace these particular prisoners. The truth is revolutionary and they run slave kamps.

I was lucky coming up in the sixties. My father was an active progressive guy and at a young age I saw and experienced a lot of incredible social activity. I always was attracted to the ideas of the groups, underground commix, history, literature and so forth. I read voraciously throughout my life. Early on (I think I was 14) I decided I wanted to become a "free thinker." I didn't even know what that meant, but I knew that's where I wanted to go was. I was in this class with adults. They were talking about the great philosophers, focusing on those from nazi concentration camps. So, I guess I've come full circle! Now I study the great philosopher's in *Amerika's* concentration kamps!

Growing up in Chicagoland, I also always loved the mystical story of the Haymarket Martyrs. And when the Yippies & anarchists came to the "Festival of Life" in August 1968 for the Democratic Convention, it was something! There was a weeklong pitched battle with the pigs. My old man was a delegate and he got tear gassed! My mom marched with a

bunch of other mothers for peace. It was heady stuff. My good friends ran a grotto in Dekalb, IL home of Northern Illinois University. They had all the latest underground culture and news from around the country, and there was a lot of it for quite a while. I soaked that shit up like a sponge!

Later, I felt closely tutored by Emma Goldman and Lucy Parsons. I consider myself a "Chicago School" anarchist, which the Haymarket anarchists developed. It's solid agitation for working class social revolution – pure anarchism! I love it! I suppose I'll have to articulate it pretty soon. But, mainly, I just have a flaming hatred for injustice and bursting love for freedom! Those compel me more than anything!

Sean Lambert was a real mentor to me, even though I'm probably twenty years older than he is! Sam Mbah of the Nigerian Awareness League is a pure joy to listen to answer questions. Lorenzo Komboa Ervin is the father of modern day ABC thinking and doing. He's been enormously impactful.

But I also have non-specifically "anarchist" influences to my thinking. I consider myself a "race traitor" abolitionist. I can't stand slavery and racism! I love John Brown and Illinois' very own, Elijah P. Lovejoy! Noel Ignatiev is definitely onto something important to contribute! I respect many of the New Afrikan thinkers, such as Zolo Agona Azania, Khalfani Khaldun, Ali Khalid Abdullah, Abdul Olugbala Shakur and others. But, I don't believe in nationalism. Ali is a New Afrikan anarchist and also shares my internationalist viewpoint. I am a big fan of Talib Y. Rashid and his psychological analysis of self-hate and criminalization and spiritual humanism and Rashid is brilliant, both as an artist and as a thinker/analyst. I don't agree with his communist model, though. These people are serious revolutionary thinkers that I feel people should be studying. We're not going to agree on everything, but we must learn the nuts and bolts of the issues involved. We must go to the source – the most oppressed - who have made it their life work to study and deconstruct it and offer it to the world. We owe them our attention and hopefully, we will be activated into doing useful and productive work.

It's mostly a lifelong belief for freedom and against governmental oppression. I've seen murder by the U.S. every single day of my life! Everything I've read has filled in the scenes and timelines and specifics, but it never changes that basic fact of government-led mass murder all the time. As a person who cares about the welfare of myself and others, this is a drop everything abomination upon the people of the world, during the entire period *of* government! In light of this utter madness that now immediately threatens the very existence of Earth, it behooves us to get with it, big time! C'mon, y'all! Its fun as hell *doin'* all this stuff, too! No, it's not! Sometimes it is, anyway. Usually, it's a stressful as hell, lot of hard work, often frustrating hassle. But, I wouldn't ever stop doing it, any day, ever!

terrible is the deaf, dumb and mute response of most people who don't want to genuinely deal with it. Ten years ago, maybe 1,000,000 less prisoners were locked up. The conditions have steadily gotten worse – less programs, less food, less access to law libraries, visits, phone calls, human contact of any sort, more beatings, more hopelessness and despair, more violence and deprivation. Great system ain't it!

These problems are part and parcel to capitalism, especially this virulent, slave-rooted one here in Amerika. As Amerika slowly goes down, like all evil empires must, the repression of the black and poor increases. Wealth is more polarized. I heard yesterday, that there are now 600 *billionaires!*

I heard today, at a meeting of a group I'm with (CCOS) – Concerned Citizens of the Southland – that in the poor black south suburban schools, cops are coming into the grade schools and "tagging" students over their fights. These mostly young men are then being tracked – for prison! This fellow said 70% of these boys are thus tracked at the school he spoke about! He said the schools are run like prisons, with the teachers more like guards. Even the school courtyard, is modeled after the prison yard!!! They're all fenced in and they *look* like prisons!

So, things have deteriorated rapidly in the prisons. With these neo-con Bushie nazis in power, more draconian laws, more evil big shot judges, more reactionary legislators, harsher laws, more police surveillance, dogs, tasers, guns, mobile lock-ups, etc., etc. are constantly being introduced and expanded. The police are being militarized and funneled back and forth to Iraq. So, killers of Iraqis are now in police uniforms when they get back here. Citizens are under endless suspicion about anything and everything, especially in the heavily videotaped and "under-cover" rogue cop patrolled (read: black) neighborhoods.

It's all more and more sinister as even "white folks" are being asked to snitch on their parents and neighbors, and everyone is in Stalinist fear mode. Nobody talks to each other in the stores out of some weird fear!

Look at Dylan – a brilliant "gifted" white kid had his life snuffed out and he was just treated by the pigs assigned to look into it, as if he was road kill! They have zero respect for the truth and zero for life.

And if you're a prisoner, it's less than zero! It's a vile horribleness and the sickest things happen every day, as people play out their mindless social dementia. Just yesterday, another woman cut open a womb, killed young kids, etc. Meanwhile, "hundreds" of "suspected militants" are bombed into oblivion – by NATO soldiers in Afghanistan, and if anything, people assume it's a "good thing." The U.S. threatens Iran, a nation of maybe 60,000,000 people! Yet all people can muster up concern for is some NFL team! This is a society wandering aimlessly on a wicked thorazine bender, and every one of us is not safe and life is getting worse.

This sordid reality brings me back to the squalid dungeons. Like cockroaches, the prisonkrats do not like the spotlight put on their morbid

although also not an anarchist, does tremendous work deconstructing the history of Native America, the endless genocide as well as U.S. history worldwide, and even world history. He breaks things down very understandably. Their work is available through my distro. Harold H. Thompson, an Irish anarchist, does an excellent zine. *My* zines and essays are seriously on point! And these babies are *freely* available!! Not for me, but *definitely* for you! It's free skool education!

I also love explosive anarchist writing. Guys like Luigi Galeani, Johan Most, August Spies – I love reading their work. The Russian anarchists had some powerful writers, as did the Spanish. These days, I don't know who is more impressive – Sam Mbah of the Nigerian Awareness League (anarchist) or Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, a longtime Panther anarchist, now working out of Nashville, Tennessee – his native state. Both are crammed with articulation and insight on the issues that matter the most.

That's one of my goals. I want to help spawn a whole culture of resistance – as popular as hip-hop and a *hundred* times more conscious! It's possible! I feel people can attain a self-sustaining level of consciousness from various revolutionary tributaries. Anarchism is definitely one of those flows. It provides endless opportunities to act!

We can all learn and broaden our outlooks by a serious undertaking of study of the other revolutionary positions, too! We have to be open and free with all of it. Being anarchists, and taking the time and effort to articulate our beliefs and do serious work, while also not shying away from other modes of thinking, gives anarchism a strength and legitimacy, it doesn't have otherwise. We should not fear any kind of challenge, as far as ideas go. We're after the truth and if the truth is that most anarchists are just half-assing around, then that's the truth! Work with others who aren't afraid to get on with it! Whatever proves most effective – do a lot of! Let it be known, that I understand that most all people half-ass it, not just anarchists. But I have such high hopes for anarchists, it really disappoints me when I don't see much serious explosive positive work, I know they are capable of doing being done, and they are not being undertaken because for whatever reason, they refuse to give forth the full, honest effort that all this work that needs to be done, takes.

COYOTE: As a prison abolitionist, it must be devastating to see more and more prisons being built across the country. I have read literature that was written ten years ago, talking about the same struggles we still face today. What changes and accomplishments have you seen in 10 years?

Anthony: Yeah, I hate it, all this kidnapping, harassing, incarcerating, torture, death, suffering – all of it! It's totally disgusting. What's also

COYOTE: A lot of prisoners are inspired by the likes of Malcolm X, George Jackson and Dennis Banks, because these are people who transformed themselves intellectually, while in prison and who took action to do something valuable for their people. You once mentioned that you were destined to become a professional – a doctor, professor or a lawyer, or something along those lines. But you dropped out of college and hitch-hiked around the country for 2 years. I sense your story is very similar to Che Guevara's. Other than your father, who are your influences?

Anthony: I guess your question is how does one become a serious revolutionary activist regardless of their background? Those revolutionary brothers you mentioned, did indeed, become important thinkers and doers, while in prison. They transformed themselves from being unknowing and criminalized into a slave situation, into understanding social forces. Malcolm X got a chance to go out in the world and demonstrate what a brave black man can do, say, organize and grow into – before he was gunned down. George Jackson became an incredible writer and thinker, all while still heavily imprisoned – until he was gunned down on the yard. Dennis Banks was incarcerated for his activism and involvement with AIM. He was a strong soldier *before* his incarceration! They are awesome examples of what a person can transform themselves into, regardless of the most oppressive living conditions. Malcolm showed what a prisoner *can* do, once he or she is released. George demonstrated bravery even at the time of his murder, while a prisoner. Dennis is like Leonard Peltier, a lifelong fighter for his people.

Che Guevara put his life on the line many times, preparing for revolution, fighting revolutions, and also gave his life fighting the U.S.-trained Bolivian army, in 1967. He fought to liberate Cuba and fought in Africa, before going down in Bolivia trying to ignite a revolution there. He was from Argentina. He's a selfless example of real life on the line solidarity with other oppressed people.

I'm no Che Guevara! Although, he came from a somewhat well-to-do family, like myself, I'm a product of Amerika. I did "drop out" for a couple years and disengage myself from the track I was unwillingly on – a college degree. But, I didn't train to be a revolutionary fighter, like Che! I studied the ideas of revolution, not the learning how to use a gun part. He was a communist and I am an anarchist. He was an almost mythical figure. I'm just a brain worker. Che was both a thinker and a soldier in the field – a serious strategist under revolutionary warfare conditions. The people of the world will forever love him for it – despite some of the shitty things he did along the way – to Cuban anarchists and others. He epitomized sacrificing for the love of humanity! It was a huge anti-American phenomenon that the revolutionaries in South America today,

still revere and draw strength from – like Haymarket still is to many.

I did believe that I had to disengage myself from this bourgeois track I was put on. I wanted to live a working-class life, so I would actually think like and actually be a working class person and not a petty bourgeois one. I sensed early on, that *not* doing so would turn my thinking into mush and I would sell out somehow and not legitimately develop my thinking and writing.

So, I would become an "intentional peasant." I was kind of like the narodniks of Russia, who decided to go back to the village and become one with the peasants to help foment revolution in the 1800's.

It was a vague feeling I had, but I think it has been borne out. My siblings are liberals who chase after material things – cars, boats, vacations, etc. I pour my wage-slave monies into serious literature, which I spread freely to societies' most oppressed. So, I think I guessed right! I could feel that the two years on the road were a serious "education." I learned more then than in school. I learned about reality and poverty and suffering and injustice.

I always say, the two best decisions I made in my life (other than the obvious personal ones) were – not going into the military and dropping out of college in 1972. I would insist on a self-educated "degree." Later, at my second wife's insistence, I returned to college and became that school's valedictorian. I used the occasion of my speech to blast the government and the school's administration!

I won a writing contest to be the valedictorian. My essay was entitled: "Learn To Think." Then I dropped out of school again (didn't go on) because we had a seven year old and a one year old. I kept my job. I toyed with the idea of switching jobs and becoming an educator. But, I knew if I got a job as a teacher, I'd be fired the first day. So, I developed into this free skool educator. It's another real good decision I made!

COYOTE: We are all aware with the struggles that prisoners face across the country, but nobody gets to hear the stories of the activists out there who help prisoners with their struggles. Do you have any personal stories that you'd like to share? Maybe something that happened to you while you were doing your work as a prison abolitionist, or maybe a "success story" of a former prisoner, or any other story that you'd like to share.

Anthony: Well, I do spend of lot of time and effort getting the stories of prisoners out. After all, you guys are the most oppressed in this country and your stories scream to be told! But, I also write some personal stuff and have my own personal zine, *Thought Bombs*. Sometimes I tell personal stories in their. I have tons of stories of my life and those I care about. Recently, the guy who help jack me out of that stupid dorm room in Iowa, circa 1972, Greg Dzurny, committed suicide. He was one of my

Reading great literature about revolutionary times is thrilling and awesome. Gorky was impressive (until Stalin ruined him.) Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe is a must read. I loved Mark Twain, too! Reading is incredible! Too bad schooling ruins it. And here, the poor teachers are trying to encourage kids to read and flower and this hideous system makes them be a part of them hating everything!

For a long while, I studied the rise and fall of Nazi Germany. I read a million books about it all. It came in handy, as the comparisons between Germany and America are so numerous! Hitler didn't study "How the West Was Won" for nothing! God, how he envied the Western hemisphere and their successful racialist, centuries-long genocide and slave system! Erich Maria Remarque is best known for his book about WWI, entitled All Quiet On The Western Front. That book was good, but I liked his one about WWII better. It was called, A Time To Love and A Time To Die. So horrible, so many millions killed!

Basic concepts like capitalism, communism and anarchism must be understood. Karl Marx, Mikhail Bakunin, Peter Kropotkin, Rosa Luxemborg, Lucy Parsons, Emma Goldman – these are people who need to be listened to! Revolutionaries! I'm just finishing the autobiography of Assata Shakur! I hate to see it end! Alexander Berkman wrote beautifully. I used to read and reread Khalil Gibran from Lebanon, all the time. Such gorgeous phrasing! Voline wrote an amazing history of the Russian Revolution, entitled, The Unknown Revolution. Fantastic! I thought Claude McKay, a black American communist, was a beautiful writer.

Here's a foursome of books, I picked off my shelf. Killing Hope, by William Blum. On the Justice of Roosting Chickens, by Ward Churchill. My Autobiography, by Emma Goldman. Anarchism, by Peter Kropotkin.

Franz Fanon's The Wretched of the Earth is important stuff. There's a whole world of information out there to read. Again, like everything else in life, it only works if you actually go through with doing it. You compel yourself to read, you read more, get wiser, it gets easier, you learn more, you can share more, be more content and knowledgeable, likable and useful.

Write to AK Press. Located at:
674 – A 23rd Street / Oakland, CA 94612-1163. They have a catalog that looks like a phone book! You can learn anything you want, but you have to struggle for it – just like everything else!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the explosively important writers of today. I'm talking about black anarchist prisoner writers, like James Scott, Ojore Lutalo, Jerome White-Bey, Ali Khalid Abdullah and others. Tremendous thinkers who aren't anarchists include Rashid, (who is also the world's strongest political artist) Talib Rashid, Khalfani Malik Khaldun, Abdul Olugbala Shakur and many others. Tom Big Warrior,

going to, or will you remain a shit talker, only? This is a question, every single person should grapple with. Of course, most people ignore their true destiny and live a truncated life of frustration and escapism. When you are dead and gone and all is said and done, who the hell is gonna give a damn about that – or want to emulate that lifestyle???

That's a huge problem – the *willingly* criminalized youth. With guns and drugs and sex the end all, destruction, random killings, drug addiction, endless incarceration, or death awaits many "players." This dreadful "gang" mentality poisons the atmosphere inside prison, which guards use to their advantage, as a way to keep them down and unorganized. It's a huge challenge – helping bangers transcend that dead end mentality and reroute it into a genuine – no hustle – service to the people. Without reliable, honest, dedicated and sincere people, this will not be able to come to fruition. We need a *moral* revolution, too!

COYOTE: Can you give a list of "10" books that you think prisoners should read?

Anthony: Ten books, eh? OK. First off, let me talk about books. Many brilliant men and women have written glorious books throughout the last many centuries. Read them! Classic literature, in any language is invariably revolutionary and otherwise insightful! Learn the detailed *truth* about the culture and history of our world and all the worlds' peoples! Otherwise, your mind is mush, a victim of the endless barrage of nazi propaganda spewing out of countless idiot boxes, newspapers, magazines, radios, etc., etc. So, read voraciously the classic novels, poetry, analyses, of all societies. Look in libraries, bookcases everywhere, sales, etc. etc. Libraries regularly give away huge numbers of books, that when gleaned through can reveal an awesome amount of genuine culture, truth and beauty. Your mind and body and spirit *yearn* for this so-far denied basic education! Access it!

This will help you learn to think cogently and gather your self-esteem together. Keep a dictionary at the handy so you can look up words you don't know the meanings of. A Thesaurus, too! Learn about all the other words that sort of mean the same thing, so you can be colorful and accurate when you describe what you are thinking about.

Dylan Drapeau, my son's best friend, would have been 18 on December 30, 2006. He was killed by an off-duty pig on July 20, 2006. You know what he wanted for his 18th birthday? An $800.00 dictionary! So, off the bat, make a dictionary book #1!

I read a lot of Russia writers, when I was a pup. Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, Gogol, Pushkin, Tolstoy. These guys showed me the ropes – especially Dostoyevsky. The Brothers K – The Possessed. WOW! This cat knew how to *write!* His were long, gripping paragraphs that came to a complicated series of crescendos! You *knew* what drove his characters!

best friends. His sister, who I went out with years ago, killed herself too, a few years ago! Another friend, Eddie Hutchins, a great drummer, killed himself a couple three years ago because he didn't want to go back to prison (parole violation.) He was a heroin addict. He left a three-year old daughter. Me and some other guys got a college trust fund up for her.

Good, fun things happen! The recent conference to kick-start our new group – Midwest Coalition To Abolish Control Unit Prisons – was cool! We brainstormed for eight straight hours (about 25 of us) and then had an ass-kicking show – reggae, hip-hop and punk bands! That made me feel good – laughing and joking with good friends – who double as serious anarchists! That's fun stuff! A high octane publication is a source of satisfaction – at least for a little while. One can never get anywhere near that nasty place – complacency! Life is to be moved on with.

I guess I'm kinda on cruise control. I've lived a fairly long life. I'm 53. I'm not as anxious to go do stuff, like I once was. I want to get things done! I want to focus on making things better! I want to go where I'm needed the most! Lately, it has to do with trying to procure "justice" in this horrible nightmare situation where my son's best friend was killed by an off-duty cop. I think about it a lot. I have a lot of plans to do writing projects. I have a few months left to my wage-slave job and then I retire with a modest pension. I hope to do more presentations and so forth. Hey, you college folks! Get me some gigs!

As for "success stories" Andy (John Two-Names) Riendeau comes to mind. He was married a few months before his rather miraculous parole in Alabama. He was working with Sekou Kambui, the long railroaded Panther prisoner. He was paroled and was able to actually start a life with his wife. They went to help organize a protest against the building of a rural prison down there. The liars doing it first claimed they were building a strip mall! Jeremiah Vansice is another one. He got out of prison in Iowa and has been continuing his activism in support of prisoners and tries to help educate those around him. We keep in touch.

There are other stories, good and bad. The idea is to give every single person as fair a shake as possible, see how they do, and help them along the way, as they need and deserve. We have to know that this truth is the key to getting it together, but we are faced with powerful enemies and social forces that are hampering our work. Our job is to transcend those obstacles.

There are some really cool activists out here, like my good friend, Lionel. He's a serious environmentalist and is always doing really cool stuff, like suing the police, exposing toxic dangers and taking his kids out to the woods to enjoy nature. He's got a long beard and kind of reminds my wife of Jesus Christ. He's a gentle loving soul with a heart that pounds out every single beat, screaming *"Justice!"* Guys like him make this work something to really look forward to every day.

COYOTE: It must be hard for you as a wage-slave, father, husband, and an activist, doing what you do. Everybody knows how hard it is for prisoners, but nobody gets to hear how hard it is for the activists. How much of a struggle is it for you, to do what you do as an activist while still having to maintain a job and support a family?

Anthony: Oh, it's hard as hell! Not! It's very easy for me to do this, as I've discovered the perpetual motion machine of getting off your dead ass! I've *willed* myself to be in this position. It's a project that I spent a ton of time and effort on to be this developed. Now, people know about me and know how to contact me. I've developed good working habits, efficiency and so forth. The problem is the enormity of the task at hand. I'm simply one person and like everybody else have only 24 hours a day to work with. Throw in sleep, work, being with my family, etc., etc. and it can get frustrating as the work piles up and the opportunities seem too far apart and short.

Once again, I'm going to pat myself self on the back for having youthful foresight. Early on, I figured that when I got older, I'd be busy as hell, so while I was young, I could afford to be a slacker! And, I was, to a certain extent. I did drop out of college and bum around, although I got jobs here and there. Even as a kid, I had several paper routes, so I was never "lazy." Sure enough, here I am, "older" and I'm busy as hell. But, I knew this would happen and I encouraged it to happen. I have a tremendous capacity for work and this best maximizes my contribution to the struggle, being this sort of switch man on the underground information highway.

I don't buy the argument t that it's so "hard!" What is hard is getting rid of those do-nothing self-defeating attitudes and modes of behavior. People can become anything. It's a matter of will – mind over matter. Usually, starting a project is the hardest part of actually seeing it through completion. Look up the word "alacrity" and strive to have it – lots of it!

As for my family, they have indeed been made to suffer, as I am so immersed in this work. I can't be two places at once! They resent that I put so much time and effort into this. But, they're still loving and supportive of me. My wife is tremendous and my kids are great! I do a lot of work out of our house and only go out to meetings or demos or whatever when I feel I must. So, I'm around, but my mind is thinking about something else all the time. Oh sure, I knock off and do stuff with them, on a daily basis, usually. I float in and out of my work, as time allows and opportunities present themselves. I use all my break time at work doing support work. I don't watch much T.V. or read books for fun. I don't go to the bars or hardly see friends much. Everything is rush,

taxpayers, the system *wants* these people in prison! They get *nothing* if they get out and become "model citizens!"

Talib Rashid wrote two superior zines about this. *The Anti-Recidivist Handbook for the 21st Century* and *The Final Release*. They explain the psychology of the criminalization process and how the system instills self-hate, which is transferred onto the community. It's another weapon (like divide & conquer, racism, etc.) that the system uses to keep people from becoming educated and learning how to organize their community to fight back and make a functioning socio-economic system that isn't under the boot heel of this sick racist and predatory society. He also shows the way to overcome these negative mind sets. These are very good zines, which I recommend to any prisoner.

As for Books to Prisoner programs, I'll say this. They do help prisoners. Many prisoners have little or no education, so reading and learning things is an important first step. I have little patience for pulp fiction or escapist nonsense that prisoners often want. I don't send anything but the most informative and conscious material. It's difficult to acquire strong political books that can be sent to prisoners. The people who provide grants are very stingy when it comes to truly educating prisoners.

You'd have to ask those who do these Books to Prisoner Programs what they think. Personally, I stick to the most serious material. I sometimes take a book and reduce it into a zine and make it available. I'm talking about work by George Jackson or Noam Chomsky or Ward Churchill. Sometimes, I'll just take a chapter and make it into a zine. Soft covered zines are easier to get into prison than books, even soft covered ones. They are cheaper because they are lighter and cost less to print and mail. It's still quite expensive to do and takes a lot of commitment. Because, all my money goes into printing and mailing, so I have to scrimp and save and do without on many others things, as does my family. You have to prioritize your assets in service to the cause.

I hear every day, how impactful my publications are for prisoners and I know it is true. Like I said before, I only send the most serious shit. So, prisoners know this (usually) when they send in their requests. For, they may be repressed because of their involvement with my program. Often, these publications are censored, denied, disappeared and those involved are transferred, beaten, etc. Oh, I forgot! This is a "free" country and we don't have any censorship! Stop believing the lies, people!

I'm not out just to educate prisoners so they can come out and not ruffle any capitalist pig feathers. I aim to *revolutionize* prisoners, so that when they come out, they are a positive asset to their communities and not some self-important "banger." I can't live their lives. I can help point them in the right direction and offer advice and friendship along the way. But, there comes a time for each and every one of us to make that step up to the next level, and the levels beyond that. Malcolm X did it! Are *you*

I don't have to "rely" on other people, deal with their nuances, excuses, etc., etc. My work is dynamite because I answer to myself – and I have exacting standards!

I now have a great comrade and I'm grateful for him. But, not having other people should not slow you down in the least! It's all a matter of mind over matter – sheer will to do the job. Once you develop a body of work, others will come forward. One person, so inspired, is capable of an incredible amount of work! All the great work of history, almost invariably, has a single person focused on the idea that generates the moving of mountains. Don't sell yourself short!

I'm no punk. I came up before the punks arrived. I guess you could say I was a hippie. But, I was political, so maybe I was a Yippie! Anyways, the anarcho-punks have one major belief that I really love. It's D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself!) When you do things yourself, you don't have to worry about somebody else sabotaging a project. You just do it!

COYOTE: It is true that some of the most intelligent minds can be found in these prisons far and wide. Nevertheless, the recidivism rates in America are still profoundly high. There are some activists out there who do volunteer work in bookstores that provide free books to prisoners. Some of these activists have told me that they often wonder what impact those books have on prisoners and whether or not they are really making a difference. Being that you are a distributor yourself, do you think that flooding the prisons with books and literature has had an impact on reforming prisoners?

Anthony: First, I'll talk about recidivism. Let's face it. Prisons aren't designed to "reform" their captives! They are meant to punish them, break their spirit all while generating a hefty profit from the profiteers – the guard unions, the builders and suppliers, the politicians, the police, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and shareholders of prison stock. Some prisons are "private" and run like any other rip-off business. Their goal is to maximize profits directly.

Since there are very few re-entry programs and prisoners have not had a real education while in prison (other than learning how to be a better criminal and what it feels like to be abused and embittered) they are set up for failure. They are pariahs in the community, can't find housing, jobs, food, etc. So, they face astronomical odds in *not* returning to prison for some flimsy "parole violation" or some new "crime" they allegedly commit. It's all so arbitrary. Cops and the rich get off, poor blacks don't!

Returning prisoners are easier to process back into the gulags, saving these profit-seekers the bother of the sham of court proceedings. Since each prisoner is worth from $20,000 to $40,000 to the various interested parties, and all these profits are guaranteed as they are extorted from the

rush, rush! Sometimes, I take a couple three hours and spend it with my brothers.

Every day, I prioritize my time and plan out what all I want to get accomplished. Sometimes, I have to drop everything and switch gears, so I must be flexible. I'm sort of inward and not a real "relationship" type of person. I need and want people around me, but I don't want to be all that "engaged" if you know what I mean. I'm not perfect, like everybody else. I want to do and think about what I want and am not the best father or husband. I try to be good, but realize I have inadequacies in that regard. I'm none-the-less very helpful around the house and an integral part of the family. I feel needed and wanted, if "always busy."

We all have deficiencies as human beings as well as strong points. One of my deficiencies is a difficulty in "getting into" close personal relationships on an every day basis. One of my strong points is my relentless dedication to this type of support work and knack for it. It would be nice to be great at everything and somehow have time to do everything, but that's not how life goes down.

COYOTE: It must be very overwhelming as an activist, fighting against great odds and against powerful enemies. Is there anything you'd like to say to offer encouragement to fellow activists? And could you tell people why they should get involved with the struggle of prisoners?

Anthony: For me, fighting these monsters is not really "overwhelming" but it can be frustrating. They're not killing me or bombing my neighborhood, like they are with some other people. I'm not being rounded up in drug dragnets, shot at or harassed on a daily basis. I don't live in a miserable cage. I do suffer seeing other people suffer and die though because of these arch criminals who run Amerika.

The "doing" of struggling is important. It's a chance to meet other people, develop relationships, network, learn of other struggles and develop as an activist. Sometimes an action does some good and sometimes it may seem like a waste of time. So, it's frustrating seeing a small turn-out at a lengthily organized event, say. We can never be satisfied with our efforts. We can always try harder and speak more clearly and in such a way as people naturally listen to us and understand that what we are saying is the plain truth!

Yeah, back in the day, when I was coming up, it seemed like everybody was into it and nowadays, people are oblivious. Our job is to get back to that level of attentiveness and get over the top – disband this rogue empire and start society afresh. Is the task daunting? Of course! It's the question of life or death. The very future rides on our ability to be successful, because Earth herself is being dragged down, too!

With stakes these uniquely astronomical, it really doesn't matter that the task is difficult. It has *always* been difficult! We just must accept that fact as a given and deal with it, without it bumming us out of the important, urgent work we must constantly do. Besides, doing this work *is* the revolution – especially while working closely with brilliant and courageous prisoners. This is where the battle is being waged. On one side you have the most oppressed revolutionaries of Amerika, pitted against the SS Amerikan Republican Guards!

This is the main battleground in Amerika. The Constitution calls prisoners slaves – to this day, there is no sugar-coating their intent! It opens the whole, horrible Pandora's box of endless genocide and world-wide slaving that has defined Amerika from the get go. Prisoners are tortured and die like flies in these tombs and dungeons! HIV & Hepatitis C are pandemic, as is rape. Abuse, assault, gassing, shackling, sensory deprivation, all manner of sadism is practiced on these 2.3 million people, every single day. If this realization doesn't cajole you into getting with it, maybe you need one of those heart shocks, like Leno pretends to give Cheney all the time!

The more active you become, the stronger you become. You become adept at many important tasks, like arranging things, speaking, facilitating discussions and events, knowing who to contact for all kinds of things, what to do in an emergency situation, and so forth. The skills you learn are applicable to every day life. It's a flowering of a person. It doesn't have to bum you out or bog you down – even when you're busy as hell! You just figure out how to handle it, forge ahead, no fear and not wasting time procrastinating. Most people waste so much time "getting ready" to do something, they could have done it twice! Get right on it! Do it because it needs to be done and *you* will do the best job of it! Have confidence in yourself! Life is a series of accomplishments that took a lot of hard work to *make* happen! And it can all be done on an ongoing, every day, all the time basis, integrated into your normal life! Why not?

Prisoners need and deserve our support, as they are physical, literal captives of our brutal enemies and are subjected to their evil designs. Many are innocent of the charges they were convicted of and many more languish, "guilty" of laws that don't exist in other places. In other words, they're "guilty" of non-crimes! Yet, the endless mass crime of government isn't even up for consideration in their rigged courts. Prisoners comprise a very important number of our best revolutionary thinkers and are in the perfect position to monitor the crimes of government. We must listen to them and work closely with them, to ever have a chance at real liberation. They'll also provide you with the best education you can find.

Another thing, letter writing is a very important skill. It's a lost art in this country, but it really helps you focus your attention on what you are thinking and how you want to say it. It helps you craft arguments, write

support work. Shame on that! Recently, both Break the Chains (Eugene) and CAPS (Oakland) went belly up without so much as an adequate explanation. What are the people out west doing, anyways??? I also heard that Ed Mead (although not an anarchist) was fired and no longer does support work, either. C'mon "out West!" Get it together and support your brothers and sisters in those terrible California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington etc., etc. gulags! Don't make the Children of Haymarket do all the work! Get off your various trips and set to work! Soon enough, it will be *you* who will be looking for some serious support!

As for how much support you can expect to receive from other chapters, I don't know. You'll have to ask them. Each chapter is autonomous and they make their own decisions on what work they do, who they are willing and able to support and so on. Usually, those serious about this work will try to help a comrade somehow.

We are avalanched with requests for support and there are shamefully too few of us doing this type of work. I for one, try like hell every day – I write letters, make calls, write, edit, publish, mail, strategize, attend meetings – I do all kinds of things, as time and energy allows. This is me, though, and I can't speak for other people and the difficulties they have to deal with to free their time up. I'm lucky to be in this position to be of such usefulness. It's taken me a lifetime of struggle and adaptation to be in this position, and I don't expect others to be able to be so focused all the time.

COYOTE: In Nevada, there is a lack of activism and no sign of unity amongst anarchists. There are so many struggles we face out here, especially prisoners. I have been looking hard – against great odds – to try to establish a network for Nevada prisoners, but I still haven't been able to get my feet off the ground. Do you have any ideas on what I can do and who I can turn to for support?

Anthony: Well, Nevada is a big state. You almost certainly haven't contacted all those who may be willing to work with you. So, I say, try harder. Keep trying and don't get discouraged. Prisoners have it the worst, you're a prisoner and there are many prisoners around you. Start there. Talk to your brothers, organize study circles, work up ideas, projects and get writers to write and artists to draw. Put publications together and get back with me and I'll find time to spread them around.

It took me several years before I found a single comrade who was willing to work closely with me and do this serious work. Years! And I live near big, bad Chicago – supposedly the home of many "anarchists!" I begged and pleaded, cajoled and went off on people, over and over. Nothing! All the while, I kept at it and developed this work. If I couldn't get a "collective" of serious people, I'd just do the work of ten people! And,

wide inside and out, stock infoshops, supply study groups, coffee shops, other distros - any interested individual or group. I leave zines at storefront activist offices, bring them wherever I go. I offer free zines in various other publications to folks that aren't aware of us. I write articles and letters for other publications, go to meetings of other support groups, always bringing ABC zines (for free!) and in general, am being an *always* propagandist. I give zines to people at CopyMax, at work – wherever!

During our recent annual ABCN meeting, I proposed to get prisoners more involved with ABC. We agreed to begin a sort of pilot program for prisoners. Prisoners can affiliate with a chapter of their choice, and become our ABC correspondent/contact for that particular gulag. A fellow in Florida became our first prisoner ABC contact person, how about you being #2? You can affiliate with South Chicago ABC & brother, I'll vouch for you! You can contribute a report for our quarterly ABC Network newsletter, etc.

Cleveland ABC came with serious questions and concerns about how to make their chapter more viable and effective. I agreed to go to visit with them, put on a clinic and help mentor them in their work. I'll answer all their questions, give them advice, instructional materials, etc. I'll go visit them in early November, 2006. I'm open for any and all of these outreach situations. People can call, email or write to me, if they are interested. Whenever I get a letter of inquiry about ABC, I get back with them with a lot of information, a letter and a willingness to pursue their interest.

It's sad that so few take this exciting line of anarchist agitation to heart, but we are very outgoing in our desire to help others do this type of work. But, we can't place the desire in their hearts. That must come from within themselves.

COYOTE: If I wanted to start a chapter of ABC out here in Nevada, what would I have to do and how much support can I expect from the affiliated chapters of ABC?

Anthony: If you wanted to start a chapter, you'd need a few things we sort of insist upon – a P.O. Box, an email address and a phone number. These are not possible for prisoners. That's why we came up with this new arrangement for prisoners. If you want an ABC in Nevada, you have to outreach and convince "free world" Nevadans to start one up! You can advocate for it, get their newspapers and so forth. I know there are anarchists in Nevada! The guy Johnson in Reno, Nevada does a nice anarchist zine entitled, *Imagine*. Write him a letter and ask him why he doesn't do any serious anarchist prisoner support! You live out west. I don't! I write to a lot of prisoners out west, but it seems like for all the so-called "anarchists" out there, very few do the nose-to-the-grindstone

better, and connect with your own mind and those of others more directly. Pen and paper are always good to have at the handy! Always jot down thoughts and insights and flesh them out as soon as you have time – no laziness! Develop a "rapid response mode" for everything!

COYOTE: There are many naysayers who think anarchy could never exist because there are too many people in the world who want power and who want to be in control. How far do you think we are from reaching total anarchy in this country?

Anthony: We will reach total anarchy by June of 2007! Anarchy already exists in our lives all around us and in our homes. It's not just a societal arrangement of autonomy and free exchange, but a moral way of living. You live anarchist principles all day long. So, it's not like all or nothing and it depends on transforming jerks into thinking, caring human beings. Some people will always be jerks, no doubt! Avoid those people or if you can't do that, defend yourself from them.

People are a product of their conditioning. In this demented society, people are taught to hate themselves and others. Not exactly the perfect type of upbringing to develop a legitimate anarchist social setting. It's not about waiting for people to get their act together for an anarchist society! It's about actualizing our own lives, learning and teaching each other – struggling amidst a sick society and keeping it from all going down the drain. Can anarchy be achieved some day? Hopefully! It's one helluva goal, so why not have that as a long term goal? In the meantime, we've loads of things to do!

As for the naysayers – screw them! Saying "nay" and doing nothing is shameful behavior on their part. They sound like they have surrendered their souls to these pigs! For what?! Show some self-respect, develop resolve and let's see what *you* got! What is your legacy supposed to be? "Well, he pooh-poohed everything in life and then he died. Ho Hum!" Screw that! Life is meant to be lived like there is no tomorrow, because there may very well *not* be, you turkeys! Sheesh! Get a fuckin' life!

COYOTE: Describe to me, in your opinion, the difference between "self-empowerment" and "having power over others," and explain how and when anarchists should apply each one in their lives.

Anthony: Self-empowerment is just that. It is educating yourself, developing insights and acting upon them in a positive manner. We are all responsible for our own behavior. The more aware we are, the better choices we can make, the more effective we can be in our work and the more positive impact towards others we'll have, by our example and the

things we do with and even for other people. If we accept anarchist tenets as guides for our lives, we will look to learn many things to improve our ability to extend solidarity to others, or develop mutually positive relations with others. We'll include everybody in decision-making, have respect for other people and live a more positive, caring and useful life. These are things we do for ourselves, as being this way is the most rewarding and satisfying, regardless of what others think or do! The benefits of anarchism aren't dependent on some power-hungry jerk. Our safety might be, but not our anarchism. It's a real shame that violence and intimidation works to inhibit a person's natural (anarchistic) development. It's the only argument fascism has – violence, lies, intimidation, threats.

"Having power over others" is a fascist idea. It's horrible and leads to corruption, sadism, suffering, oppression, racism, sexism, homophobia – all things wrong in the world. A master-slave relationship is what international capitalism is all about! It's not something we should strive for, nor tolerate! That's why I agree with Bakunin about the communists! If they got in, they'd want to lord over the rest of us "in the name" of the proletariat, whoever they are! The hell with that! It's just like the creeps lording over our poor planet nowadays – the Rumsfelds & Cheneys of this world. It's the opposite of what we want to see happen!

Is there occasion to "take matters into our own hands" and stop someone from doing something? Yes! If that person is hurting someone else – then you intervene and stop him! It's pretty simple. You do what you want as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. If it does, you *will* be stopped! But, other than that, it's a bad approach. Its how this slave system works – they write laws and we must obey or submit to their sadistic and often deadly punishments.

They kill and steal land and hire cops (from money they extorted from us) to protect their stolen wealth! The "criminal justice system" only targets the poor, so there is no "justice." It is just a governmental agency that is a criminal *system!* Instead of voluntary cooperation and figuring out what is best and most fair for people, it is based on coercion, lies and what the already rich decide to do to protect and expand their ill-gotten riches.

COYOTE: There are a lot of people in this world who take a disliking to things they don't understand. There are a lot of people who would feel threatened by the "presence" of an anarchist. Is there anything that you would like to say in defense of the compassion and kind-heartedness of true anarchists?

Anthony: I see no reason why anyone should feel "threatened" by an anarchist, unless he is a no-good oppressor himself! Anarchists are not what they are portrayed as – punks bent on stealing your stuff, "fucking shit up" or otherwise menacing normal citizens. That's the lying portrayal of us by the government, the police and the media. I'm a 53-year old, middle-aged so-called "white" guy. I threaten nobody! Nor do people feel threatened by my mere presence.

I find many, many people share our views on a lot of things. Most folks hate the government and feel they are nothing but a bunch of lying, thieving bastards! Sounds about right to me, too! Anarchists aren't out to menace anybody. Punks who like to pretend to be "anarchists" and steal stuff or whatever aren't really "anarchists" to me – real anarchists! They're just thieving punks! People who don't respect "normal" people are the assholes, not these "normal people" they're dissing!

See, most people are pretty real. If you approach them with respect and an openness, they'll respond in kind. They're surprising radical in their beliefs, too! Coming at them all dressed up in "attitude" and being loud and obnoxious is offensive to anybody. Why so-called "anarchists" sometimes insist on being assholes, is a very irritating thing! Wait until these "rebels" get older. Most probably, they will have long since sold out and buckled to their corporate molds. Screw that! Get real and treat people with respect! I'm no saint and sometimes I'm an asshole, too! But, we can think about it, apologize and try to keep ourselves from doing that again! No one likes being disrespected! Save your vitriol for the real monsters!

Then, of course, there are times when you run across a nazi jagoff bent on giving you a hard time. Stand your ground and defend yourself, if necessary. You don't deserve to be hassled by a jerk, either! Most of the time, you can argue persuasively – as an anarchist – without ever even mentioning the dreaded "A" word! You simply tell the truth with passion and conviction. Case closed, argument won!

Compassion and kind-hearted anarchists are everywhere and they are always busy *being* compassionate and kind-hearted! It's like mother's love – comes right in on time and means the world! I know a bunch of kind-hearted, compassionate (and seriously active) anarchists and these are the types of people I gravitate towards and endeavor to work with the most! I love 'em and so does everybody else who is delighted by their consideration and thoughtfulness. Sweet anarchists are the best!

COYOTE: In one of your zines, you said that it was one of your ambitions to see a chapter of ABC in every state. What have you been doing to see to this?

Anthony: I did write an essay entitled: *ABC's In Every City.* I'm sure you being a prisoner would love to see this happen! I try to encourage people to join ABC Network all the time. I send ABC literature far and